

REMARKS

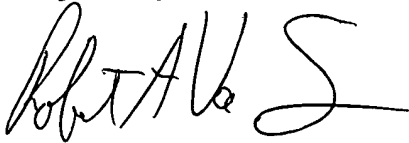
In the Office Action, claims 7-17 were allowed, and claims 1-6, 18-30 were rejected. Applicant thanks the Examiner for allowing claims 7-17.

By this Reply and Amendment, claims 1-6 and 18-30 have been canceled without prejudice, and allowed claims 7-17 remain pending in the present application. Accordingly, the present application is in condition for allowance.

Claims 1-6, 23 and 24 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as anticipated by the Poullard et al. reference, US Patent No.: 5,984,014. Claims 18-22 and 25-28 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 USC 103(a) as obvious over the Poullard et al. reference. Claims 29 and 30 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Pringle et al. reference, US Patent No.: 4,771,831, in view of the Poullard et al. reference. Applicant traverses these rejections, however the rejections are moot in light of the cancellation of claims 1-6 and 18-30 without prejudice.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the pending claims are in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



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